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ENSURING INTERNATIONAL SECURITY OF GEORGIA AND ANTICIPATED THREATS

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Abstract

The relevance of study of the international security problems of Georgia is due to the immeasurable expansion of both a subject-thematic and content field of international security in the information age. Along with the traditional military aspect, the area of world interaction has significantly increased in non-military fields (economy, energy, ecology, etc.). All of the above mentioned issues have created different problems for both cyberspace and security. The goal of modern foreign policy of Georgia is to create appropriate conditions for the development of political, socio-economic and cultural relations with the countries of the world community as well as integrate the country into the security system of Euro-Atlantic structures. This is considered as a condition ensuring both security and socio-economic well-being of the country. Thus, a concrete contribution has been made to the research of strategic assessments of possible trends, which is important for both avoiding expected threats and perfecting the process of integrating the country into the unified system of international security.

Keywords: Information Age, International Security, Foreign Policy, Threats, Indicators.

1. Introduction

The problem of ensuring security in international relations is one of the most important aspects. At the modern stage, the relevance of studying international security problems of Georgia is determined by many factors.

First of all, the currently ongoing processes of world development, revolutionary transformations, especially in the field of communication and information, mass computerization, the scale of introduction and improvement of the latest information and telecommunication technologies indicate an unprecedented growth and perspective of human development, underlining the course of drastic changes in the spheres of

political, economic, cultural and social life [Government of Georgia, 2021].

Second, in the information age, the subject, thematic and content field of international security has grown. Along with the military aspect, the scope of world interaction in the non-military or civil spheres of international security has significantly expanded and has covered economic, energy, ecological, political, informational, international, social and cultural security issues along with cyberspace.

Third, the dramatic increase in interconnectedness and interdependence under the influence of globalization has made it clear that any war is more likely to cause a global political and economic crisis than ever before. This was clearly demonstrated by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

We would like to draw attention to the fact, that today the emphasis is on the creation of effective international security systems based on the joint efforts of international actors. The countries create a unified strategy against existing common threats. They unite to defend themselves against an aggressor as well as increase their ability to defend themselves against risks, threats, challenges and dangers. The countries promise to help each other in the field of defense if one of them is attacked by another country, that is not a member of this organization.

There are different definitions of collective defense, but their main point is the same and refers to the joining of forces. They aim to establish international stability, ensuring political, regional or global security. Each country of the system recognizes the security of other countries and undertakes to make an appropriate collective response to threats, dangerous conflicts and violations.

Among the collective security models, Richard Cohen's version [Cohen, Mihalka, 2001]. is the most popular today. Cohen's concept of cooperative security includes the following basic aspects: recognition of common threats (perception of a common threat should be considered the strongest determining factor. Realization that they cannot cope with a common threat without each other); Growing mutual understanding of common values (the relationship should be based on mutual understanding and common values and there should be more ideological convergence than confrontation); Institutional format (there should be created an institutional framework for relations between countries, it should be given a strong institutional form for cooperation. A potential aggressor will avoid fighting against a strong union).

Michael Mihalka's concept is also interesting in this direction. [Cohen, Mihalka, 2001]. Mihalka discusses the extended analysis of both cooperative security and attempts to apply a more solid theoretical foundation. In his opinion, if the ruling elites of the countries with different values agree on the common future of their states and consider, that joint efforts will benefit them more than playing alone, even they will be able to cooperate with each other. In addition, Mihalka says, that the possibility of cooperation of non-democratic countries is limited. They can successfully avoid wars with each other (as in the case of ASEAN), but they are not able to form a unified position regarding regional threats to stability. Mihalka argues, that the future success of cooperative security depends not only on the spread of liberal democracy, but also on deepening economic ties with non-democratic states, instilling a sense of a "security community", that aims to take into account the interests of all parties. Thus, unlike Cohen, Mihalka concludes, that cooperative security is possible even among the states, that share even a small amount of shared values.

At the same time, we should take into account the fact that even in the conditions of globalization of the information age, issues related to international security sometimes have a strongly expressed national subjective component. The reason is the fact, that each state is distinguished by its own national specificity of ensuring national security. In modern international relations, there are congruent and opposing interests of different levels of development.

2.Methodology

As a methodological function, the general theory of systems (Systems theory) can be considered as the most consistent one with the theory of national security, and therefore with international security, as it is based on a unified view of research objects, events or processes. It is the most universal and adequate method for both national security analysis and its research. Its object is represented by the same system and subsystems (a set of elements that interact with each other). The theory of national security solves the problems of stability, security, maintenance, and security of these systems under the influence of destructive forces (factors). The most important requirement of dialectics is the correct approach to reality, taking into account its mutually exclusive development and diverse connections.

Conflictology also performs a methodological function, since destructive actions develop in the creation and development of the social process, which are related to conflict situations to a certain extent. Both

international and national security systems cannot achieve the prevention of threats and risks without some informational and governance influence on the processes. Revealing and analyzing the contradictions of the practice and the theory on security issues underlie the entire research process, defining the nature of other methods. The relevance of historical and logical approaches is of particular importance for the theory of international security, as the theoretical analysis of problems is in constant connection with historical facts and the discussion of the history of views on dangers, threats and risks is based on certain theoretical models, including logical processing of the existing problems.

International security theory is inconceivable without the use of systematic analysis methods [Wilson, Hershey, 1996, p. 97-99]. The arsenal of these methods is quite wide and each method has its own advantages and disadvantages. Also they have a field of application, both in relation to the type of object and the stage of its research.

In the methodological framework of the research, we included the recently advanced direction, that national and international security issues obtained the character of a peculiar dialectical interdependence in the relationship. This has been facilitated by a certain blurring of the line between domestic and foreign policy in the conditions of unrestrained globalization initiated by the information age.

It is clear that in the 21st century, a separate country, including Georgia, is not able to provide its own national security "in a space enclosed in its own shell, if it does not get free from it". In this regard, we would like to draw attention to both Richard Cohen's concept and Michael Mihalka's version of collective security models. They have an innovative approach to collective security, collective defense and co-operation for a new generation of conflict resolution.

Another important direction of development of modern concepts of international security theory is a theoretical understanding of the word link "security-development nexus" [The Security-Development Nexus: Conflict, Peace and Development in the 21st Century, 2004]. In this regard, since the 90s of the 20th century the focus was shifted from state security to individual security and then its main slogan became "security through development, not weapons".

In general, the theoretical-methodological basis of the research is represented by the basic ideas and provisions of political sciences, international relations and national security theories, the methods of political analysis and synthesis, classification and systematization,

theoretical generalization, and description established in these scientific directions.

3.1. Objectives and main strategic orientations of foreign policy of Georgia.

Soviet isolationism separated Georgia from the unified processes of world development for many decades. After regaining independence, Georgia actually had to establish cooperation with many countries with which it had historically established relations. At the same time, the development trends of the information age require the intensification of the processes of cultural integration of Georgia with the world. Consequently, one of the main tasks of the foreign policy of the country is to create safe political conditions for such integration [Kuprashvili, 2019, p. 39].

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the main operator of the foreign policy course of the state of Georgia in international relations. However, other agencies are also involved in this direction (including the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, etc.). They establish business relations with foreign states, international organizations and private firms within the scope of their competence.

At the modern stage of development, the main goals of foreign policy of Georgia is: to preserve state sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country; to resolve ethno-political conflicts and prevent potential conflicts; to identify sources of separatism and neutralize their actions; to establish norms of non-use of force and peaceful, non-confrontational international policy in the region; to promote and ensure membership of Georgia in both international organizations and structures; to conduct appropriate policies in international organizations and structures; to ensure national security of the country; to timely identify and neutralize possible actions directed against the security of Georgia; to protect both foreign political and economic interests; to inform the international community about the ongoing processes in Georgia; to provide information on foreign political actions of the country; to protect both the rights and interests of Georgian citizens abroad; to establish and strengthen relations with both Georgian diaspora and groups abroad that are friendly to Georgia.

The problems faced by the country can be solved only by creating an effective mechanism for monitoring and coordinating international relations of the country. This kind of mechanism does not imply the formation of a single administrative center of coordination. First of all, it is necessary to process the processes, that should cover all the main state institutions involved in international relations. They should ensure the

conceptual integration of the activities of these institutions within the framework of the unified strategy of the security of the country.

Therefore, in the process of integrating European and Euro-Atlantic structures into the political, socio-economic and security system, the main orientations of the government's policy can be:

1. Regulation of the intensity of the process of integration of the West, especially NATO and Europe, into the political, economic and security system in time, in accordance with the development of relations not only with Western countries, but also with other countries;
2. Pursuing a foreign policy that will minimize Georgia's vulnerability to Russia, including the possibility and effectiveness of Russia's pressure on Georgia's foreign policy;
3. Obtaining the political support of Western states, including Turkey;
4. Attracting economic and technical assistance from foreign countries;
5. Activation of efforts aimed at increasing the role and effectiveness of international institutions (especially in the field of security) in resolving regional conflicts and disagreements; Putting the problems of Georgia and the South Caucasus region on the agenda and bringing them to the forefront;
6. Deepening the dialogue with national minorities compactly settled in Georgia, as well as intensifying economic and social ties with them;
7. Perfection of the legislative system, which ensures the further development of the political system, the economy and the level of culture and management of the country, bringing them closer to Western standards;
8. Active participation of Georgia in both NATO programs and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council;
9. Creation of conditions for active participation of Georgia in international peace events; Approaching the Georgian Armed

Forces to NATO standards and developing operational cooperation with NATO forces;

10. All kinds of promotion of conflict settlement and establishment of peace in the region, etc.

Today, it is vitally necessary for the state of Georgia to create appropriate conditions developing political, socio-economic and cultural relations with the countries of the world community and also establish an appropriate environment for integration of European and Euro-Atlantic structures into the political, socio-economic and security system.

3.2 Threats expected in the process of integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures

The goal of foreign policy of Georgia is to integrate the country into the Euro-Atlantic, European system of democratic states and establish itself in the European security, economic and other structures. This is considered to be an important condition, ensuring both the security and socio-economic well-being of the country. Therefore, the main strategic orientations of the foreign policy of modern Georgia are defined as follows:

1. Establishment of appropriate conditions for political, socio-economic and cultural relations with the states of the world community;
2. Proper integration of European and Euro-Atlantic structures into the political, socio-economic and security system;
3. Pursuing an active regional policy;
4. Ensuring the further development of foreign economic relations.

In our opinion, in the process of integration, the government's wrong policy may create factors hindering the integration process, which may lead to a general failure in the establishment of a democratic system. Inefficiency can hinder both the development of the market economy and the creation of a developed state management system. It is also extremely important to implement fundamental transformations in the judicial and education systems. The process of building a democratic state will be delayed, if the state does not make qualitative changes

Under the above mentioned conditions, the following expected threats must be taken into account:

1. 1. Russia's expected political pressure to change Georgia's foreign policy, bringing pro-Russian forces to power (covertly providing them with financial, information-technological other support in the elections);
2. Insufficient flexibility of foreign policy course of Georgia, which is due to weaknesses within the country;
3. On the one hand, the weakness of the country reduces the possibility of external influence on its foreign policy, and on the other hand, it strengthens the demands for solving foreign-political tasks based on urgent, short-term interests, which may contradict the long-term interests of integration process with European structures;
4. Strengthening of factors hindering the realization of political and economic interests of European states to Georgia, including:
Domestic threats: political instability; strong activities of separatism; Lack of democratic control system over the armed forces of the country; Insecurity of both European standards providing democratic processes and the legal system development of the country; The weaknesses of the economy, its structural underdevelopment, increasing the costs of the West for the economic integration of Georgia. External threats: unstable regional environment; Ethnic and territorial conflicts; The increase in the political price of Georgia's integration with Europe, caused by the global conflict in the world; Ignoring interests of Georgia in the distribution of spheres of influence between Russia and North Atlantic Alliance; The unformedness of the consistent foreign policy of Russia, based on its own national interests, towards its bordering state of Georgia; The existence of lobbying mechanisms of strong anti-Georgian interest groups in Russia's foreign policy; The existence of forces uncontrolled by the central government in the southern regions of Russia (for example, Kadyrov's Chechen clan) which may pose a threat to security of Georgia; Russia's concern about Georgia due to the increased interest of Western states and, especially, Turkey; Russia's attempt to minimize Georgia's political choice; Disagreements between Russia and Georgia regarding the protection of the state border of Georgia.

It is clear, that a pragmatic orientation and correctly selected information technology should determine the structure of international security, reflecting both the rational foundations and main components of foreign

policy of Georgia. We mean the system of indicators, which will enable the country to identify expected relevant threats.

3.3. System of national security indicators in the integration component

As is known, the state is a single public organism - a whole system consisting of many subsystems, including political, economic, legislative, social, spiritual subsystems. Each of them has its own system of specific interests. Sometimes they may contradict basic material and spiritual values. These contradictions can create sources of threats to both the sphere of relations of security subsystems and the security of the country, including the whole set of vital interests of man and society. In order to create an objective opportunity to observe, to manage and to influence these processes, the state should classify all these relations into groups, owning both essential characteristics and regularities of further development and will be subject to a systematic, problem-based analysis. Accordingly, it became necessary to classify the entire relations of security into certain subsystems. The study of these processes in each separate subsystem provides an opportunity to identify the contradictions, that can contribute to the formation of danger, including in its most dangerous forms.

Each country determines its own priority subsystem (type of national security) in the unified system of ensuring national security. Countries determine their priorities based on many factors (current level of development of the country, domestic and foreign factors, geopolitical realities, international situation at the global or regional levels, etc.). However, there are several main aspects and their negligence can lead to a rapid collapse of the state. These aspects are essentially a priority for almost all states [MacFarlane, 2012]. They are: state security, economic security, public security, military security, informational security, international security, etc. Any classification of national security must be based on one of the most important uniform characteristics. Many aspects depend on the quality of the system of indicators reflecting the state of the current and past processes of ensuring international security and forecasting expected changes [Kuprashvili, 2022].

The state of foreign policy, its development trends, which represent the basis of the country's security, require constant observation and analysis by the government.

In the field of foreign relations, it is of great importance to perfect the coordination of political activities of all state agencies operating in the field

of foreign affairs in order to implement a unified security policy of the country; Aspects of protection of state interests of these actions should be combined in a single conceptual system; These aspects cannot become a subject of personal understanding and interpretation of individual state agencies and their heads. This fundamental problem should be discussed and resolved at state level. On the one hand, high socio-political activity of public life and the full participation in international exchange is unimaginable without the wide participation of various state and public institutions. On the other hand, conducting international relations independently in the form of local directions will create the danger of replacing security interests of the state with narrow sectoral or departmental interests.

In order to form a system of international security criteria, it is necessary to distinguish the essential characteristics of the security situation, which are the basis of these indicators. In turn, the main characteristics of the international security situation usually reflect the driving forces. Their activities are aimed at achieving and maintaining the protection of vital interests of the country [Kuprashvili, 2021, p. 87].

The system of national security indicators can be formed based on the characteristics of the security factors of this process in the component of integration of European and Euro-Atlantic structures into the political, socio-economic and security system. Based on the formation of the system of security criteria, it is necessary to distinguish the essential characteristics of the security situation, which are the basis of these indicators. Accordingly, the indicator of this process (which is an indicator of the level of achievement of the goal) can be the following: the reaction of the official Russian authorities, influential political and scientific circles, public opinion regarding the process of rapprochement of Eastern and Central European countries, former Soviet republics, including Georgia, with Euro-Atlantic structures and Western European Unions; It could also be: Coverage of this process by Russian news media; tightening of Russia's foreign policy towards Georgia; Attempts to destabilize the internal political situation in Georgia and to aggravate the situation in areas inhabited by non-Georgian ethnic groups; Activation of foreign agency network activities in the country; Increasing various kinds of political provocations; Strengthening the economic influence of Russia on Georgia; The position of the Russian authorities, governmental and private structures, political parties, representatives of scientific circles, mass media in relation to Georgia and the Georgian people, the current events in Georgia; The attitude of the population, authorities, law enforcement agencies, organized political groups, mass media towards Georgian citizens and people who have Georgian origin and live in Russia; The attitude of

Russian government towards the activities related to Georgia by some political parties and private structures of the country, which do not correspond to the official position of both the state and the long-term interests of Russia; The volume of Russian private capital investments in Georgia;

The nature of the interdependence of political imperatives and the economic initiative of the private sector of Russia towards Georgia; The development of public trends within the country that do not correspond to foreign policy of Georgia aimed at integration with NATO and Europe; The increase of interest of the unions operating in the field of economy, security and defense of Western and, first of all, European countries towards Georgia; Orientation of the policy of financial, material and technical assistance from the European Union towards Georgia and other countries of the region; The nature of the political support of Georgia from USA, EU and Turkey; The intensity of participation of both Western countries and transnational corporations in the utilization of resources and markets in Georgia and, in general, in the South Caucasus region; The intensity of individual military cooperation with NATO and also with the countries of the alliance (first of all, with Turkey); The strictness of the requirements for the countries wishing to join the European Union and NATO; The progress of the NATO expansion process, especially in relation to the former Soviet republics (Ukraine); The commitment of alliance to its declared principle, implying the continuity of the expansion process and so on.

It is very important to refine the classification of indicators of the level of goal achievement. They will enable us to evaluate the quality of international security provision based on the given criteria, to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the current process. The above mentioned aspects will show us clearly the ways to achieve concrete results in the provision of international security. The urgency of processing security parameters is due to the need to assess the situation created in the process of protecting and implementing vital interests of the country. This will allow us to make both the right decisions and an appropriate assessment of documents, concepts, normative-legal acts in the field of foreign policy activities.

4. Conclusion

The basis of international security is active international cooperation, observance of norms and principles of international law generally recognized by all states, joint action against new threats, risks and challenges of modern times ensuring international security. At the same

time, it should be taken into account, that aspiration to resolve relations may not be in line with national interests and problems of national identity. Sometimes these circumstances may lead to a different understanding of the phenomenon of security itself.

In order to prevent expected threats, the implementation of national security tasks in the field of foreign relations requires to ensure the principled agreement of international activities in all local directions with the foreign-political course of the state, which should be based on a complex understanding of the long-term security interests of Georgia.

Both perfection of the indicator classification of the level of goal achievement and the use of the main criteria allow us to determine whether the vision of both the heads of the state government and management bodies is adequate or not. The existing parameters contribute to the accuracy of the scientific examination of the implemented transformations (which is the basis to study problems and manage society, the control mechanism for both making and implementing political decisions). It is a means to study the problems and manage society, reflecting various aspects regarding the dynamics of prevention of expected threats and provision of international security.

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